

**To:** McCarthy, David[David.McCarthy@mail.house.gov]  
**From:** Levine, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 2:22:53 PM  
**Subject:** Re:

Hi Dave,

I'm not sure why there is the impression that EPA is withholding information. We have held daily conference calls, posted data and information. I will be sending a significant amount of information today, it merely needs to be QA/QCd. i'm happy to talk with you further when I am back at my desk around noon. In the meantime, we are working to assemble the information.

-----  
Carolyn Levine  
U.S. EPA  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
(202) 564-1859

On Aug 13, 2015, at 10:18 AM, McCarthy, David <[David.McCarthy@mail.house.gov](mailto:David.McCarthy@mail.house.gov)> wrote:

Carolyn - Chairman Upton is now asking Personal Matters/Ex. 6 if, for example, there are any photos or videos from the mine site taken at the time of the surge. Overall his questions bear on whether epa is withholding info. During yesterday's call we thought the presentation was incomplete and that some of the unanswered questions could have been answered. This morning we got two such answers asked on yesterday's call by reading the Wall street Journal. . Please answer the chairman's question now, and the rest of ours today. If you want to arrange a do-over call just with E and C today, let's do it. Meanwhile the September 11 hearing is definitely on. You should anticipate Fred attending and asking questions. The scope as of today is broadly "CERCLA compliance and clean-up -Federal government responsibility.". This would include agencies (e.g., DOD, DOE) along side epa. But Members are primarily concerned now about epa withholding info on whatever happened in Colorado. Let's do what we can to solve that ASAP. See you on the 12th. Thanks. Dave

**From:** Levine, Carolyn [<mailto:Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 08:29 PM  
**Subject:** Materials from EPA Administrator visit to Durango, CO + Fact Sheet and Action Memo for Red and Bonita Mine

Hi all,

Sending as bcc: to prevent accidental reply-all.

Thank you to those who were able to participate in today's call. As was mentioned on the call, today, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy visited Durango, CO to inspect response efforts relating to the release of waste water from Gold King mine, and meet with state,

local and tribal officials and community members. Tomorrow, Administrator McCarthy will visit the response efforts in Farmington, NM. More details about the visit will be released as they become available.

While in Durango, Administrator McCarthy attended a briefing at the Unified EPA Area Command where she discussed promising new data from August 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> that is showing water quality levels in the Animas River near Durango similar to pre-event conditions. EPA is continuing to work with local community officials tasked with making decisions about public health. Later this afternoon EPA scientists will be meeting with those officials to discuss the new data and any decisions moving forward.

**Photos:** Photos from EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy's trip to Durango, CO to inspect response efforts relating to the release of waste water from Gold King mine, and meet with state, local and tribal officials and community members.

**Audio:** Audio from EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy's remarks and press conference at the Unified EPA Area Command in Durango, CO, on response efforts relating to the release of waste water from Gold King Mine.

**Following the briefing, the Administrator held a press briefing at the Unified EPA Area Command in Durango. The following remarks can be attributed to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy:**

*No agency could be more upset about the incident happening, and more dedicated in doing our job to get this right. We couldn't be more sorry. Our mission is to protect human health and the environment. We will hold ourselves to a higher standard than anyone else.*

*I want to assure the general public as well as the leaders in the states, the counties and the tribal leaders, that we are working hand in hand with our partners to expedite this review, to expedite some return to normalcy in terms of using this river.*

*The river is returning to pre-event conditions. This is very good news, but we will be working with our partners so they have a chance to review this data thoroughly and have a chance to talk through this data in terms of what it means to their decisions moving forward. We are going to let this high quality and reliable science be our guide.*

*From this point on, the data will continue to come out. And that's what's going to influence decisions on what should happen in this river and in the affected counties.*

For additional information on the response to the Gold King Mine release  
[www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

Tomorrow I will send additional materials to follow up on today's call. Please let me know if you have any questions in the meantime.

Thanks,

Carolyn

NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE OF EPA

*Carolyn Levine*

*Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations*

*U.S. EPA*

*(202) 564-1859*

*levine.carolyn@epa.gov*